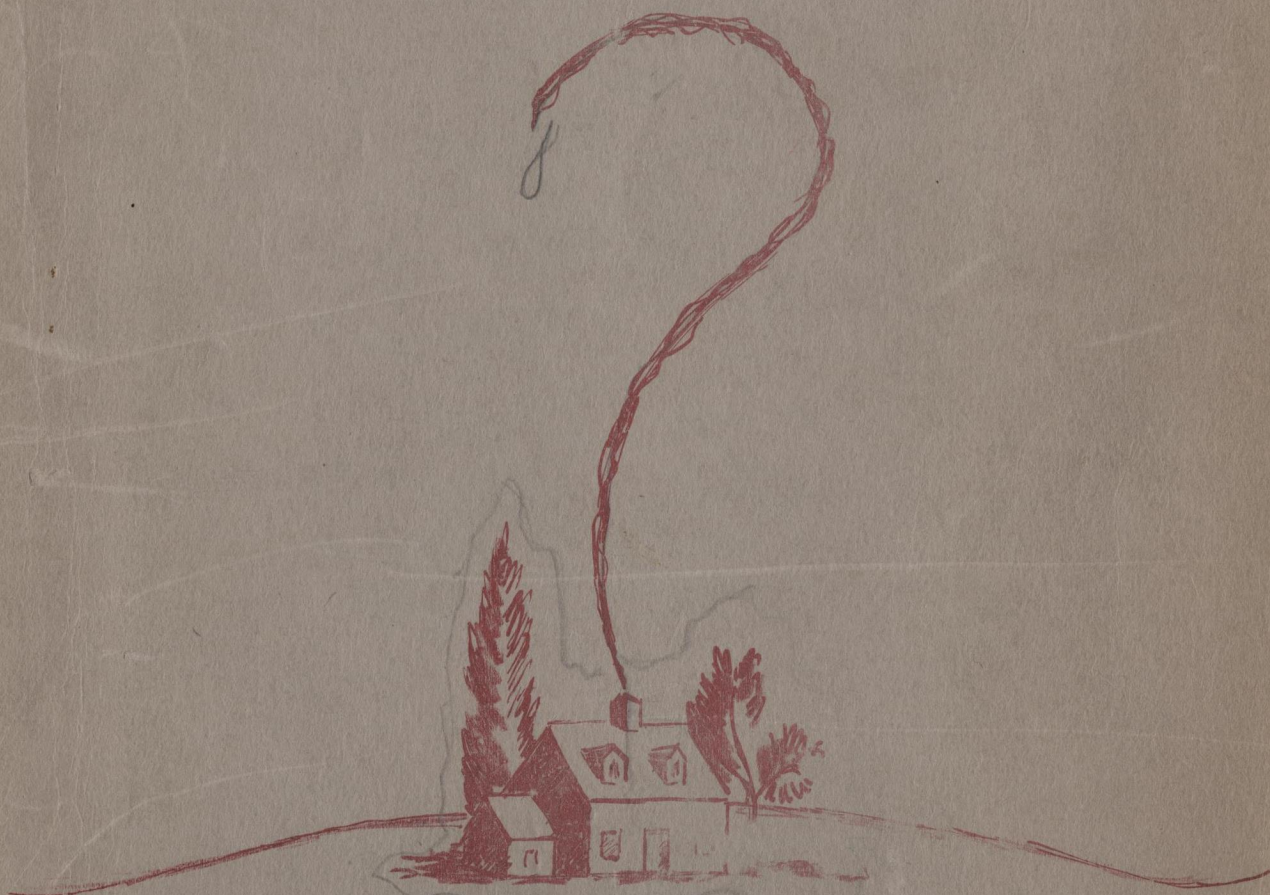


HOW SAFE

is

YOUR HOME

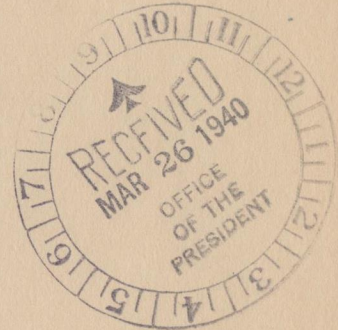


compiled by
NATIONAL YOUTH ADMINISTRATION
for Kentucky

93.N21-14:2K37hw

Federal Security Agency
NATIONAL YOUTH ADMINISTRATION
Robert K. Salyers, State Youth Administrator
Third and Main Streets
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

HOW
SAFE
IS YOUR HOME
????



Prepared
in the
Homemaking Department
Whitlock F. Disher, State Supervisor
by
Lynnette Hearon
Consulting Home Economist

February 1940

Federal Security Agency
NATIONAL YOUTH ADMINISTRATION
Robert K. Salyers, State Youth Administrator
Third and Main Streets
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

- SAFETY IN THE HOME -

There's No Place Like the Home to get Hurt!!

We read about accidents every day. It is not an uncommon thing to hear of someone injured in an automobile accident, killed by falling from a building or permanently injured by slipping on the sidewalk.

Automobile accidents are publicized and played up in a dramatic way all over the front pages of the newspapers. But even though accidents in the home may be just as serious, they receive just the opposite of dramatic publicity. They are kept as quiet as possible. Home accidents happen in the bedroom, living room, cellar or the attic, but seldom get much further. Perhaps you hear that Mrs. Jones down the street fell and broke a leg, but there are no pictures or vivid descriptions of how the accident occurred. And because it is a private family affair, we hate to ask questions about how it all happened, the details, etc.

Why is it that we hear so little about the kind and number of accidents that happen in the home? The first and main reason is privacy. The same accidents happen every day to hundreds of people, but only a few people know about each one. Then "X" marks the spot and only the immediate family profits by the experience.

Personal pride keeps many a person from telling and spreading the news of how the accident in the home happened. When asked to give an account of the accident, one just says, "Oh! It was so dumb of me --!", and even years later we think it sounds so foolish to tell the world why we have to wear a permanent brace on the leg or why one or two fingers are missing.

A hip broken by a fall in the family bathtub is not a very good topic for after dinner conversation. We do not brag about slipping on a carpet which could so easily have been made "non-skid". And certainly there is no glory in poisoning our children through carelessness in leaving medicine bottles about.

Have you ever stopped to think how many accidents occur right in the home? Recent investigations show that simple hazards are responsible for home accidents that injure 5,000,000 persons a year in the United States. Of course, some of these injuries are rather simple but many are the cause of permanent disability. Still more startling figures show that the home is unsafe to the extent that 75% of the accidents happen there. Every fourteen minutes in the United States one person dies following a home accident and five

are permanently disabled. This may be hard to believe, because we have a tendency to just accept the kind of accidents that occur in the home. But if we are to be efficient and good homemakers, it is our responsibility to see that unnecessary accidents caused by carelessness do not continue to occur in our homes. With our NYA homemaking projects as model homes in their communities, homemaking supervisors can do much toward teaching the youth to be more safety minded.

Since statistics tell us that more accidents occur on the farm and in the home than in any other way, it is certainly up to us as homemakers to do something about it. Of course, the first thing we need to know in order to do anything toward preventing accidents, is to understand why these accidents occur. There are many, many direct reasons but for the most part these can be listed under several "real" reasons.

First, there are the "mechanical" causes. These include disorder in the home, improper equipment to work with, improper use of equipment and the need for repairs.

The second big reason for accidents include "personal" causes such as poor judgement, carelessness, physical frailty and disability and getting in too big a hurry.

Almost every accident can be traced to one of the "mechanical" or "personal" causes. To be more specific, one can sum these up and say many home accidents can be accounted for by the fact that there is not the control in the home or on the farm that there is in great industrial establishments. In industry they have provided better machinery to work with, given safety instructions and conducted safety campaigns to cut down the number of accidents. While at home, we go on using and "making out" with what we have, doing things the way we want to and no one else can do anything about it.

Another reason why the same accidents occur over and over is because we do not profit by the experiences of others. Many of us have witnessed some kind of an automobile accident and have a lasting impression of pain and mangled bodies. Because we have seen it happen to others, we try to be careful to keep it from happening to us. But when we hear of someone slipping on a waxed floor, we think it is slightly ridiculous that a person can't walk on a floor. So we laugh and go about our business with a "Well, it won't happen to me" attitude. Then before we know it, the same thing has happened to us or one of our family.

When at home, one has a feeling of safety. The very word "home" implies a safe refuge from the ills of the world and thus creates a mental condition of carelessness. It does not seem so necessary to be on guard in our own homes. So the unfastened rug on the slippery floor or the chair used because it is too much trouble to get the ladder, the leaky gas jet and the broken light fixture to unnoticed until some one is seriously injured by an avoidable accident.

There is seldom a death penalty for mispronouncing or misspelling a word, for poor handwriting, for a mistake in grammar or for an error in arithmetic, but failure to learn and apply the rules of safety may cost a person a limb or his life.

Whose responsibility is it to see that this number of accidents is reduced? First, it is the responsibility of the Project Supervisors to caution the girls and make them more aware of the things that can happen, then to see that the girls practice the precautions and ways of avoiding these accidents. Second, it is the responsibility of each girl to want to avoid accidents and injuries and to be safety conscious enough to know how to avoid accidents.

Just remember that for every injury or accident that occurs, there is a cause. Accidents, for the most part, do not just "happen", nor are they "acts of God"; they are largely created through human acts and omissions. To make a long story short, home accidents are the result of personalized stupidity.

Do you know which accidents are most common to the home? If not, it might be interesting to know that falls cause most home fatalities. The second largest number of injuries are caused by burns. Next in order comes poisoning, absorption of poisonous gases, mechanical suffocation, and deaths caused by fires.

Falls and burns are the cause of about two-thirds of the home fatalities. It might also be interesting to know in what part of the house most of these falls and burns take place. The following table gives the location and the percentage of falls and burns that occur there:

Bedroom	--	27%	Dining Room	--	7%
Living Room	--	14%	Bathroom	--	4%
Kitchen	--	13%	Other places		
Stairs	--	9%	in the home	--	3%
Outside the home			--	23%	

The great majority of these falls and burns are totally unnecessary. We must realize that we are too careless and do something to correct this carelessness.

Don't expect someone with authority to stand guard and say "You must do this", and "You must not do that". It will never work and furthermore will not prevent accidents. The home will always be defended against criticism and invasion. Imagine the outcry we would get if the head of the family or the supervisor of an NYA project were taxed for tolerating faulty wiring fixtures; fined for loose railing and slippery rugs; put in jail for failure to have the cellar stairs adequately lighted or leaving poisons within the

reach of children or where persons are likely to mistake them for something else.

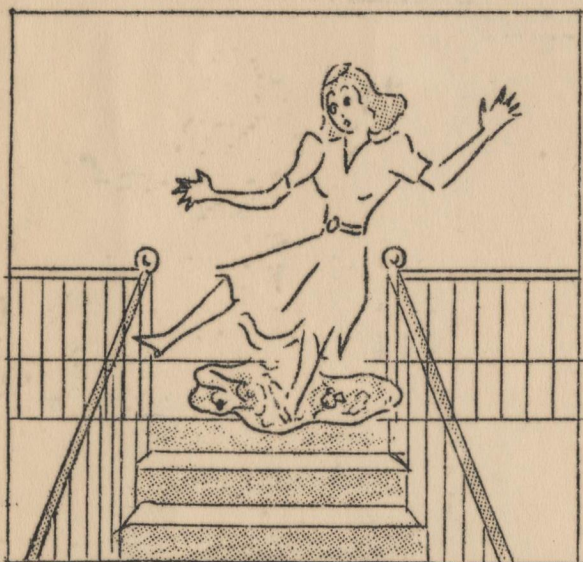
No, we cannot make you practice and teach safety by holding a punishment over your head. The fact remains that the change must come from within the home - by people in the home realizing that they need to do something to make the home a safer place in which to live.

We could set up the goal, "No more accidents in the home", or, "No more accidents on NYA projects". This is a perfect goal indeed to strive to reach, but we certainly cannot do so unless people are willing to eliminate the causes of accidents. By being careful and believing accidents are preventable, we can go a long way on the road to "No more accidents".

How are we going to make our youth more safety conscious? First, by giving adequate safety instructions. Instruction in all the accident hazards has a definite place in the training and education of every youth. It is, therefore, one of the most important things we can include in our Related Training Program.

- ACCIDENTS -

What are some of the accidents that occur in the home? Falls head the list as the most common cause of injury in the home. Right off hand you may say, "What kind of falls?", but if you stop to think, there are just countless ways.



Slipping on scatter rugs is a very common one. This may be due to the floor being so slick that the rug slides when stepped on, or because the rugs do not have enough base to hold them flat on the floor. Flimsy rugs that slide easily are very dangerous.

Many falls are caused by improperly placed scatter rugs. At the head of the stairs, the foot of the stairs and at corners that are turned quickly are dangerous places for scatter rugs.

Quite serious accidents have been caused by people catching their toes and tripping on rugs. So always pick up your feet when stepping onto a rug. It might save you a broken arm or a sprained ankle. Rugs that have a tendency to curl up on the corners or sides should be weighted down or tacked down with carpet tacks. Pads under rugs help to keep them from rolling up at the edges and from slipping.



Something that has caused as many, if not more, injuries than anything else, is standing on a chair instead of a step ladder. So many times when we are in a hurry to get a job done, we just grab the nearest chair because it is more convenient than getting the step ladder from the closet. Even though it only takes a few minutes to do the job, we take chances of falling and being hurt. Many hours of pain and much expense might be saved by getting the ladder to stand on.

Of course, there is always the possibility of even a ladder slipping. If the floor is slick or the ladder unsteady, ask someone to lend a helping hand by holding the ladder while you are standing on it.



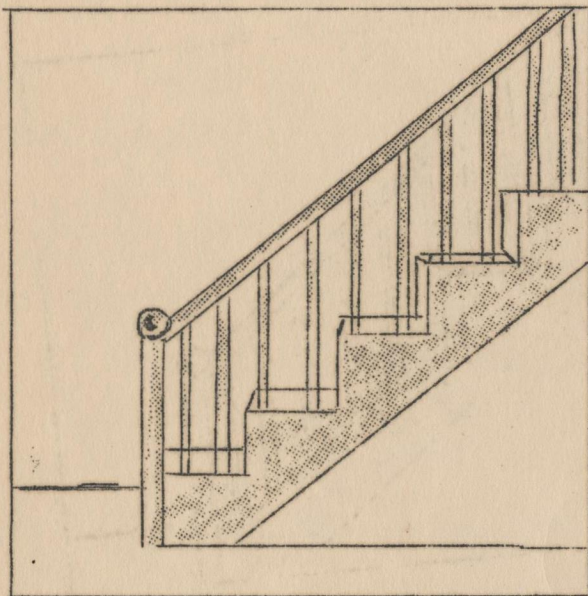
Slipping while getting in or out of the bathtub is an accident that occurs quite frequently. Such things as losing one's balance, trying to stand on the side of the tub or stepping on soap are the most usual causes. Any number of things can result from such a fall - fractured skulls, broken legs, arms, or ribs or a sprained wrist are not uncommon results. So by all means be careful when getting in the tub and when getting out. Do not put the soap in the tub until after you are in, and take the bar of soap out of the tub as soon as you have finished using it. Be cautious about your balance when stepping over the side or standing in the tub.



Falling down steps can cause very serious injury. Many girls turn their ankles or catch their shoe heels while walking down steps with the result of broken bones, sprained ankles, broken skin and bruised muscles. So, too much warning can not be given about wearing run-over or loose high heels, especially for work that requires one to go up and down steps.

Careless placing of ones feet on steps also causes

falls. By all means, watch for loose objects such as toys that might be on the steps and cause one to fall.

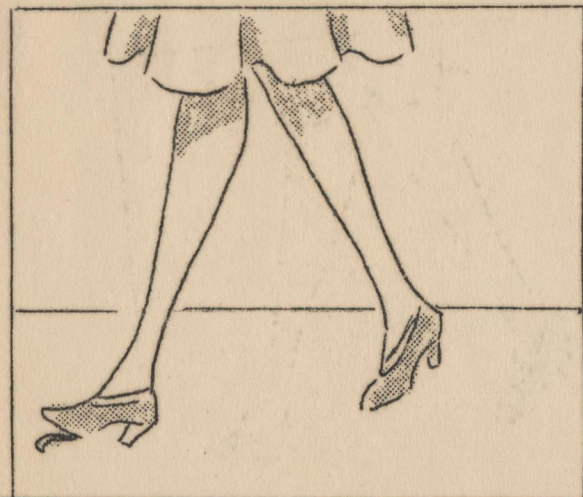


All stairways should be kept in good repair and provided with proper hand rails. For the safety of those using the steps, there should be at least one hand rail for every stairway and a rail on both sides if the stair is more than four feet wide.

Steps that are too narrow or too high will also cause accidents. The tread and rise of the step should be about seventeen and one-half inches in all. As a general rule the tread that is the width of the step should be wider than the rise. In every instance the step should be wide enough to accomodate the length of the average foot.

Be sure that there is plenty of light on stairways. It is almost impossible to avoid falls if people can't see where they are going. So if there are stairways on your project, be sure they are adequately illuminated so that no one has to go stumbling around in the dark.

Be careful when going up or down steps that are wet or covered with ice. It is very easy to slip and be seriously injured.



Wearing shoes with loose soles might cause an accident. If the sole is so loose as to "flop" and get turned back, it might cause one to trip and fall. This will probably happen to children more often than anyone else, but can also happen to grown-ups. The moral here is to wear good, well-constructed shoes to insure good balance and movement of the feet. Badly worn shoes can cause damage that will cost more than a pair of shoes. In other words, "An ounce of prevention is worth

a pound of cure".



Another very common cause of falls is slipping or tripping on objects that are left on the floor. Things like stepping on a spool of thread, children's toys or the broom that have been left on the floor happen every day in some home. See that children put their toys away when they finish playing. Keep all objects, especially brooms, off the floor. Brooms should be placed in the closet with the handle down and the brush part up.

If dish water is spilled, mop it up right away, because wet floors are very slippery and someone is more than likely to slip and fall. To avoid such accidents, homemakers should try to avoid dropping things on the floor and when they are dropped or spilled, they should be cleaned up immediately.

Scalds and Burns

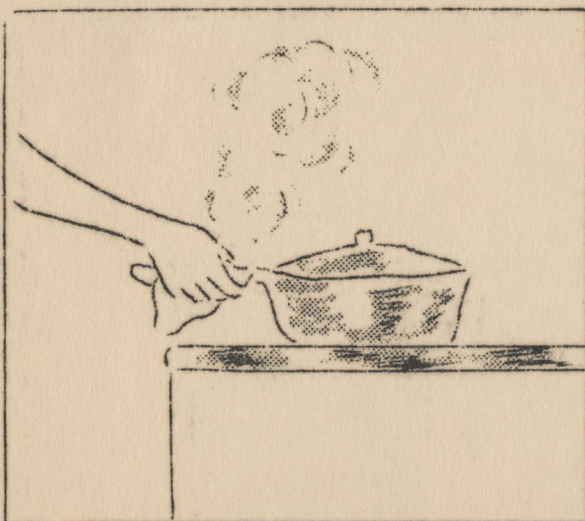
Next to the number of accidents caused by falls are those caused by SCALDS and BURNS. You probably can think of a number of ways by which people have been burned, so in your caution and instruction to youth, be sure to add them to the ones mentioned.

Our purpose in writing this bulletin is to tell of a few of the more common causes of home accidents. If we listed all of the causes of accidents, including the less common ones, it would make this bulletin too long for practical use.

Burns



Deliberately or unconsciously catching hold of something hot is probably the cause of the largest number of burns. Many times when girls are cooking they will pick up a hot container or put their hands on the handle of a hot skillet without even thinking of using a pot holder. This is usually due to carelessness and not thinking of what one is doing. Along with this can be mentioned the fact that many girls use the nearest rag or towel as a protector in handling hot cooking utensils. Often these are not thick enough and because the container is too hot to hold on to, the person lets go with the result of being scalded and badly burned from the hot food. Then, of course, there will be the secondary factor of the loss of food and broken dishes or a damaged container.



Something that one is likely to do, without thinking of the possible results, is using a wet rag for a pot holder. The person will take hold of the hot dish with the wet rag as a protector for the hands and before she can move the container to where she wants it, the heat has turned the water in the rag into steam. You know the result.



A thing that may seem fairly insignificant is the placing of cooking utensils with hot food or water in them. When possible, handles that stick straight out should be turned so that they are over the stove and not so the handles protrude over the side of the stove. Aside from the possibility of adults bumping against them when moving about the kitchen, there is the great danger of children catching hold of the handles and spilling the hot water or food on themselves. Many children have been burned and some scarred for life by catching hold of containers and pulling them over so that the water or food is spilled on them. Of course, the "busy" little hands are often the cause of such an accident, but we can cite a much larger number of cases that are caused by the carelessness of older people. So, for the safety of all concerned, let's get into the habit of keeping all handles of containers turned so that they do not stick out past the edge of the stove.



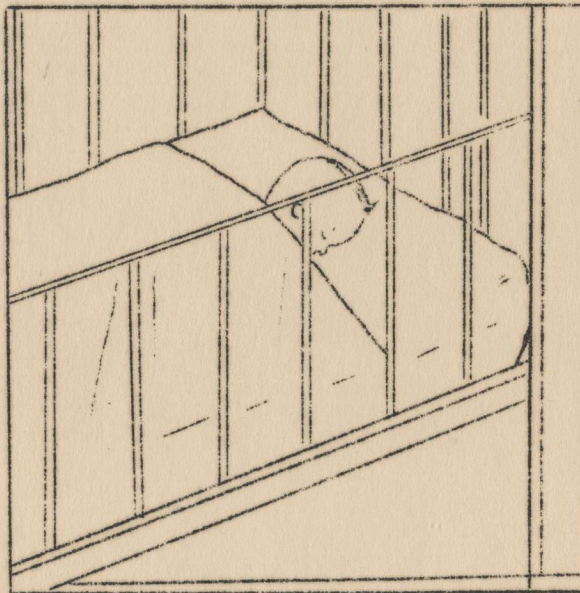
You have only to be burned from steam or scalded with hot water once to appreciate the way it feels. A burn from steam is one of the most serious a person can get because the steam penetrates the skin and flesh and causes a deep burn.

Mechanical Suffocation

Quite often we hear of people suffocating. This is caused by being shut in a place where there is no fresh air circulating. Try to prevent this happening to you or any of your family by being sure there is enough fresh air in work rooms, sleeping rooms or any place where there is a group. Even though the lack of fresh air may not prove fatal, one can be hurt by fainting and falling for lack of fresh air.

Such accidents as getting locked in a closet or fainting while working in an attic or basement where there is no fresh air circulating may result in death. Precautions should be taken to see that the doors and windows to such places are propped open securely so as to allow plenty of ventilation.

Children have been known to get locked in closets and trunks while playing and to die from the lack of air. They should be taught the danger of playing in such places.



Small children are likely to get the cover or a pillow over their faces and smother. This can be prevented by pinning the pillow and bed clothes to the mattress securely so the child can't pull them over his face.

Fires

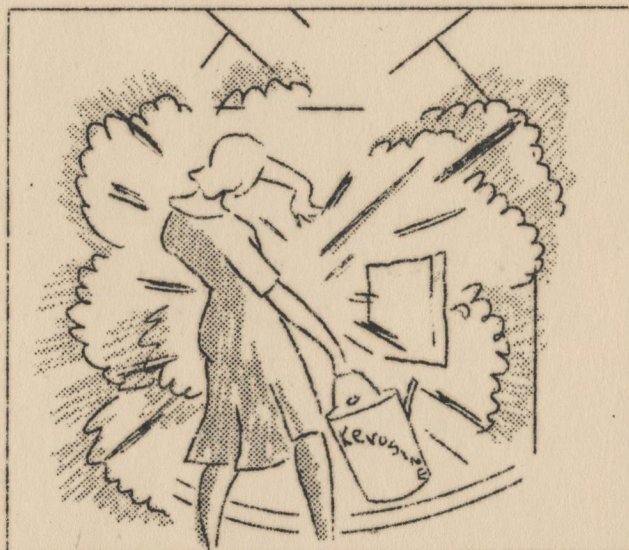


Think how many people are killed or scarred for life by fires every year, all because we do not take the proper precautions and care to prevent the causes of fires.



A very frequent cause of fire and one which we have been warned about hundreds of times, is the use of gasoline or inflammable fluids for cleaning. Surely everyone knows that gasoline and

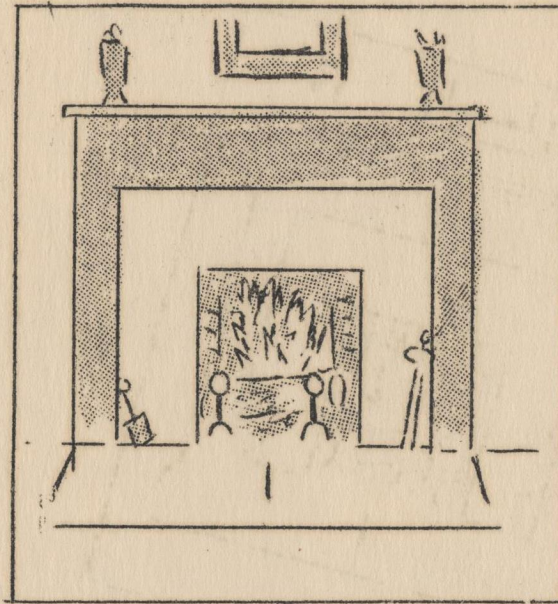
fire do not get together without causing serious results. Yet we go right on using gasoline for cleaning clothes in a room where there is an open fire. People who take such chances can expect to see their homes go up in flames most any time.



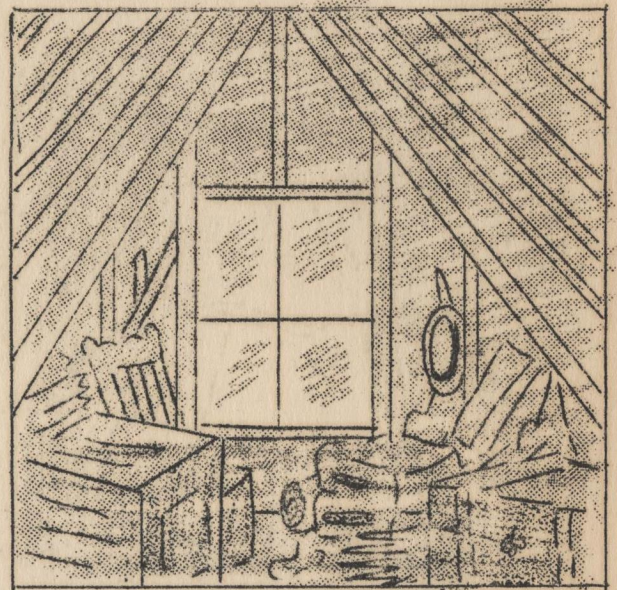
Kerosene is a very close kin to gasoline because it, too, is good food for fire. Many people don't seem to realize this, judging from the way they hold large cans of kerosene near flames. Special precautions should also be taken in the use of kerosene lamps and stoves; also, explosions and fires have been caused by the contact of the flame with the kerosene in stoves and lamps.

A very important point to be considered in preventing fires is the method of heating. If a project is housed in a building where there is a central heating system, the furnace and all the heating arrangements should be inspected and approved before using and should be kept repaired at all times.

All joints, flues, and chimneys should be inspected and necessary repairs made. Any number of things may happen as the result of neglecting to check over the heating system. For example, a chimney that is in need of repair may allow sparks to get in between the floor or into the framework of the house and cause a fire.



When open fires or heating stoves are used for keeping a house warm, there is more responsibility placed on everyone to see that hot sparks and coals do not roll out on the floor or rugs and cause a fire.



Good housekeeping is especially important in preventing fires. Waste paper, sweepings, scraps from the sewing room and trash should

be cleaned up and stored in containers and then removed from the buildings and disposed of daily. Nothing is more inviting to fire than a collection of papers and rags. So be sure to keep all papers in order if they are kept around and keep rags in some kind of a container.



Playing with matches is an exciting experience for children, but it is also a dangerous one. Try to keep matches where children can not get them to play with.

Children aren't the only ones who can cause damage with matches. In fact, adults are responsible for many unnecessary fires because they are so careless about where they throw matches. People light cigarettes and toss the match away without making sure that it is not still burning. Many fires and losses of lives have been caused by such carelessness.

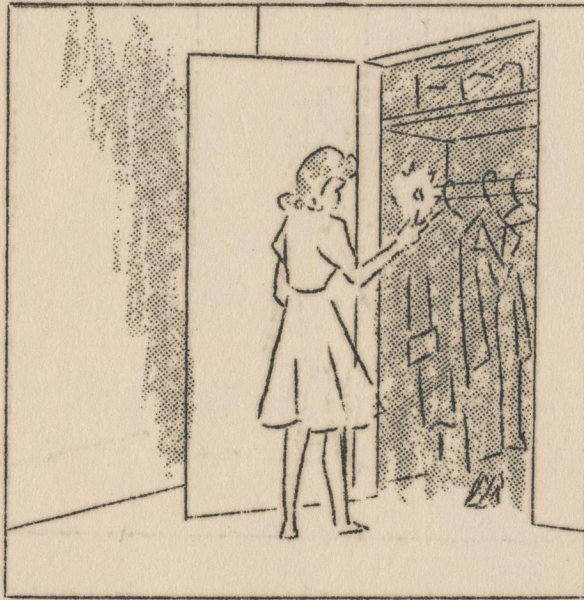
Breaking the match stick before you throw it away is a very good habit to form. If this becomes a habit, you can be sure that you will not be responsible for a fire caused by a lighted match. By taking time to break the stick, one can be sure the flame is out.

By all means, used matches should not be thrown into waste paper containers. It is much safer to have a metal container on the side of the stove for used matches.

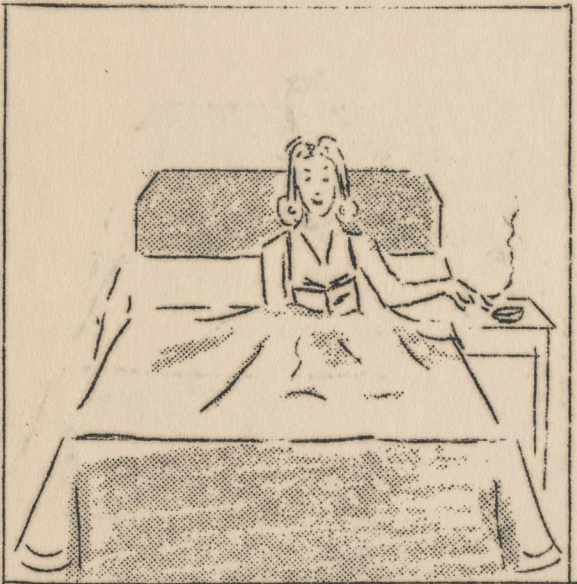
Another important safety device is a metal or glass container on the wall near (not on) the stove, for keeping unused or new matches.

The danger of leaving matches in the paper box is that the entire box might catch fire.

Keeping matches in a glass jar with the top closed is a very good idea. The glass container serves as a fireproof protection and at the same time keeps the matches dry. Here again, though, remember to keep them in a convenient place near but not on the stove.

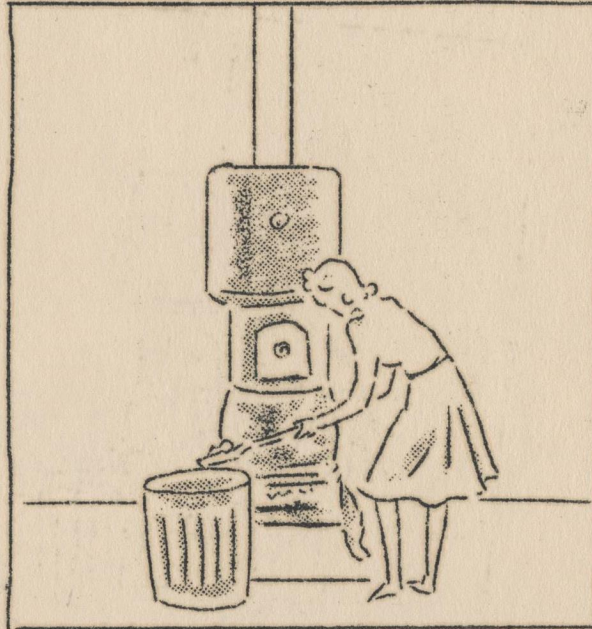


Matches were not intended to be substituted for lights. So don't use matches as a light when looking in closets, attics or any other close place. This is a very easy way to start a fire.



Since smoking has become such a favorite pastime with men and women, cigarettes have become an increasing cause of fires. Besides people burning themselves and their clothing, they go so far as to take chances of burning their bed clothes and their homes. Smoking in bed is a very dangerous thing to do. The ashes from the cigarette are likely to fall onto the bedding and cause a fire. Smoking in places where there are loose rags, papers, straw or clothing is also a very unwise thing to do.

By all means be careful where you throw your cigarette "butts". Unless you are sure that you are throwing it on something that absolutely will not burn, (stove, cement, or metal) be sure that the fire on the end of the cigarette is out before you throw it away.



Hot ashes from the furnace, stove or fireplace should be placed in a metal container. They should not be put in boxes, wooden barrels or in baskets, because of the danger of starting a fire. The ashes should be kept in the metal container until they are thoroughly cool before disposing of them.

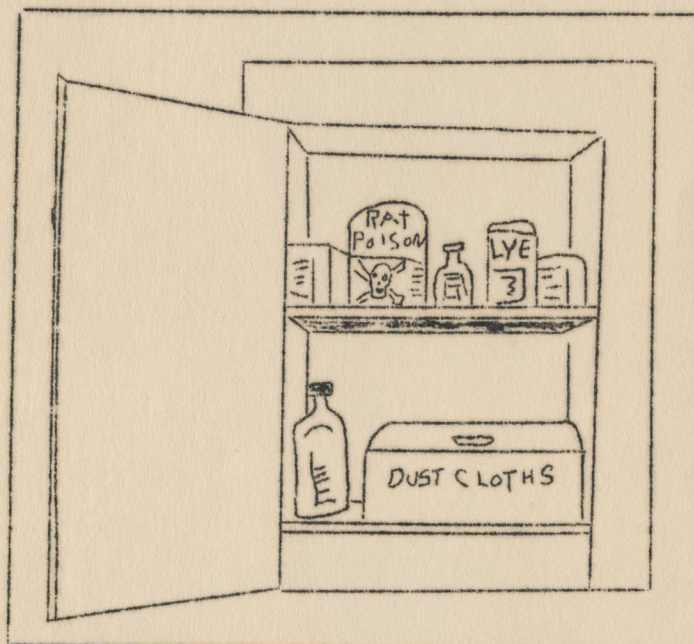
Poisons

A number of people die or are seriously injured by taking poison. If the poison can be removed from the stomach before it is absorbed, there is not so much danger, but once the poison has been absorbed, there is not much even a physician can do. So let's be extra careful with all "poisons".

It is always dangerous and taking a chance to leave any kind of poison where children can get it. They may be eaten or drunk through curiosity or accidentally.



Poisons are usually taken accidentally, but there are also a number of cases where they have been taken with the intention of suicide. So, let's not be responsible for any accidental or suicidal deaths. Try to prevent such an accident by keeping all bottles labeled and cautioning everyone to never take medicine from an unlabeled bottle. Medicines should never be taken in the dark where one cannot see the label on the bottle.



The supervisor should keep all poison drugs away from other commonly used bottles. In fact, anything with serious poisoning

effect should be kept locked up. Caution the girls to keep all medicines and poisons in their homes out of reach of small children.

Some of the poisons most likely to be taken are iodine, carbolic acid, bichloride of mercury, lysol, strychnine and lye.

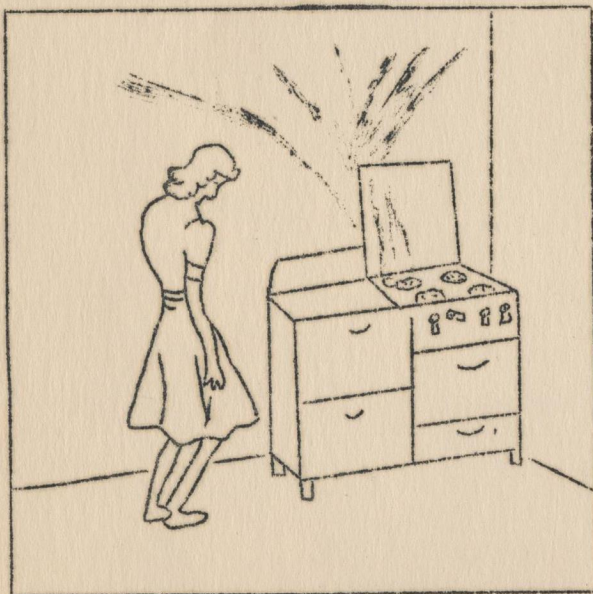
Another type of poisoning which used to be much more common than it is now, is food poisoning. This is usually caused by eating food that has not been properly cared for or prepared - that is, food that is partly decayed. Food poisoning is popularly known as "ptomaine poisoning" and is more common during the summer months.

People have also been poisoned from eating berries, certain kinds of roots and poisonous mushrooms, called "toadstools". But if we know what we are eating and know it is well cared for and prepared in the proper manner, there is little danger of "ptomaine poisoning".

Poisonous Gases

In our cities and larger towns, a number of homes are heated with natural gas and much of the cooking is done on gas stoves. If gas is used on your project or in your home, be sure that the pipes are kept in good repair. Even the smallest leak in a gas pipe may allow enough gas to escape to kill all the people in the house.

Sleeping in rooms where there is not enough air to counteract gas fumes from the gas heater may cause trouble.



Probably the most common cause of poisoning from gas is from the burners of the gas cook stove. A person will leave something on the stove to cook slowly, so she turns the flame low and goes on about other things. In the meantime, the pressure in the gas pipes decreases enough to let the flame go out. As a result, there are no flames to consume the gas which is escaping from the burner, so it just fills the room with gas fumes. Then, when someone

walks into the room, she is overcome by the gas fumes. If the fumes are strong enough, the person breathes in enough gas to cause fatal injury.

There have been cases of whole families killed by breathing in the poisonous gas. Most gas stoves have burners that are rather hard to turn on. This is for the sake of safety, but there have been cases of people bumping against the knob or handle of the burner and turning on the gas without even realizing it. So always be watchful and careful enough to notice such things before the gas escapes into the room.

Never leave gas burners lighted for a long period of time without checking them at short intervals. Especially is this important when there is the possibility of the food boiling over and putting out the flame completely, leaving the gas on full force to quickly fill the room. Also, there is danger in an open window near the stove, for unless someone is in the room to watch the stove fairly closely, a quick breeze may blow out the flame.

Gas fumes are also given off from burning coal. If gas fumes have gotten into a room, try to get fresh air into the room as quickly as possible. The fresh air will soon counteract the gas. But once the gas gets into the lungs of a person, it is hard to remove because the gas (carbon monoxide) and red blood cells combine in such a way that the gas is not released. If enough gas gets into the lungs, it combines with all the red blood cells so that there are none left to take fresh oxygen into the blood stream. As a result, the person dies for lack of oxygen.

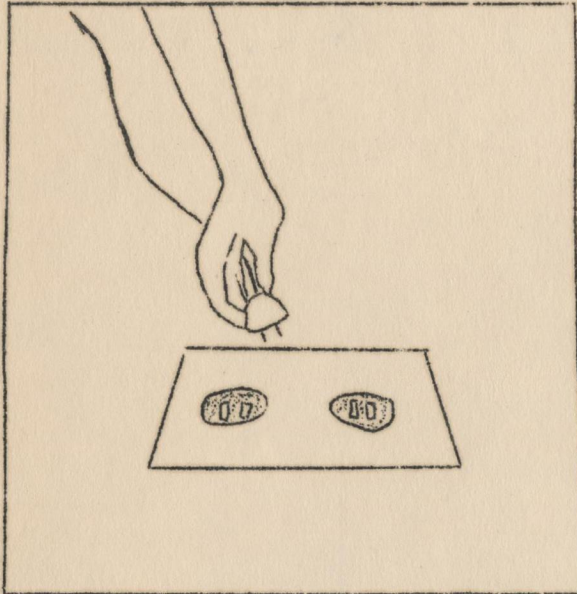
Electricity

With the extensive use of electricity, there have also been hazards to cope with. Improper wiring and use of electrical equipment have caused a large number of accidents in the home.

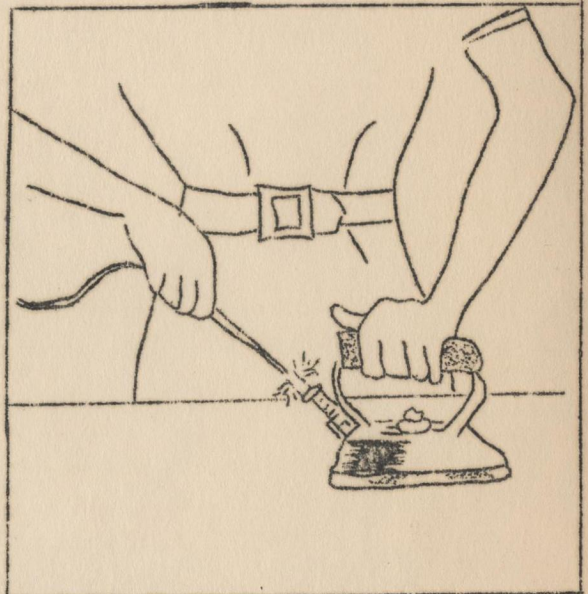
Poor wiring and using equipment with badly worn cords are probably the more common causes of accidents from electricity. We have a tendency to just "rig" up some kind of a "make-shift" for the time being, then continue using it rather than replacing it with proper materials. Good materials should be used in the first place and then all electrical equipment, extension plugs, switches, etc., should be kept in good repair.

Electric fixtures that hang from the ceiling or wall should be supported in some way, not just hung by an electric cord. The cords get hard service anyway, and it doesn't take much twisting, bending and pulling to wear the insulation off so that the wiring

is dangerous and needs replacing.



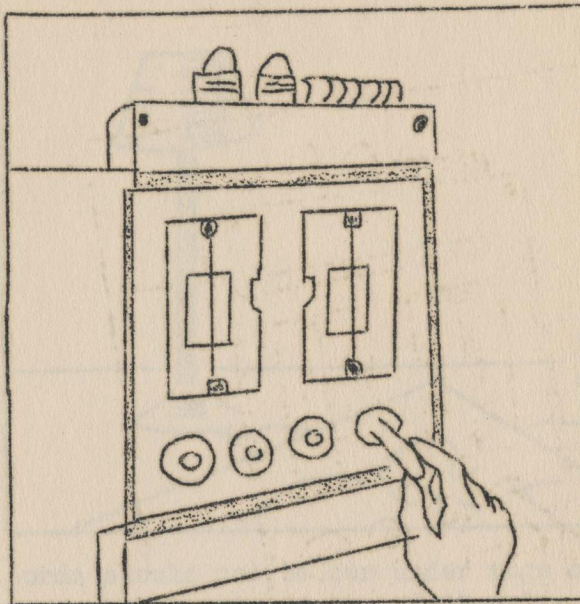
Right method of disconnecting a plug from a socket.



Wrong way of disconnecting a plug from a socket.

Learn to disconnect electric equipment by catching hold of the plug where it fits into the socket. Do not remove plugs by pulling on the cord. This wears the insulation off and breaks the wires. Using appliances with cords damaged in such a way will cause short circuits and blown out fuses.

The fuse is the "safety valve" in an electrical system. It is constructed so that it "blows" out when too much current passes through it. A simple description of it would be that it is a small link of soft metal inserted in the circuit which melts when too much current passes through it. For example, if a short circuit occurs anywhere in the wiring system and an excessive current flows through the wires and fuse, the fuse will melt, cutting off the current before any harm can be done. If the fuse fails to operate, the wires become "hot" enough to burn the insulation and in many cases to cause a fire. Because of the importance of fuses, they should not be tampered with or be replaced by substitutes.



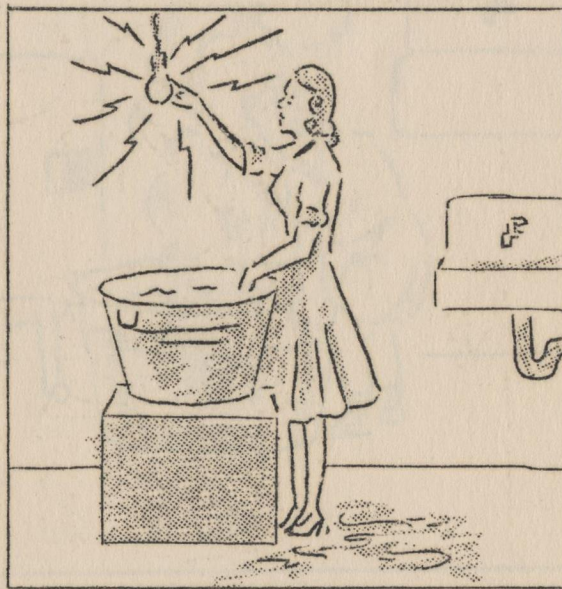
A very dangerous thing to do is to bridge the circuit by inserting a penny or a metal hair pin. These will allow the current to flow but have no control over the amount. Here again the wires may become too hot and cause a fire. The fuses used should be the proper rating to correspond to the size of the circuit.

Fuses have another function—they serve as a safety device to keep the wires which conduct the current from being overloaded with current. If too many electrical appliances are connected to one circuit, more current will be drawn through the supply wires than they were meant to carry. The fuse will melt or blow out, thus protecting the wires. When a fuse blows, you can be sure something is wrong. One of the simplest things to do is to look around the room and see if you have too many appliances connected at the same time. For instance, you may be using a flatiron, a lamp, a radio and a ceiling light all on one circuit.

ing the iron. Many times this is due to using the iron in a lamp socket which has a pull chain or a turn switch. Since there is no way of knowing for sure when the current is on or off, we often think we are turning it off when in reality we are turning it on. The surest way to turn the iron off is to disconnect the cord.

Using heat pads in bed has caused accidents and in some cases fires. This is due to using cheap ones which are improperly wired and insulated or to using ones which have had the wiring damaged by improper care. Heating pads should be kept dry and should be stored in the original container or in another box. It should not be folded. The practice of sticking safety pins through the pad is a bad one, because the pins are likely to come in contact with the wires, making the pin "alive" so as to cause a shock if the person touches it. The pins might also damage the wires.

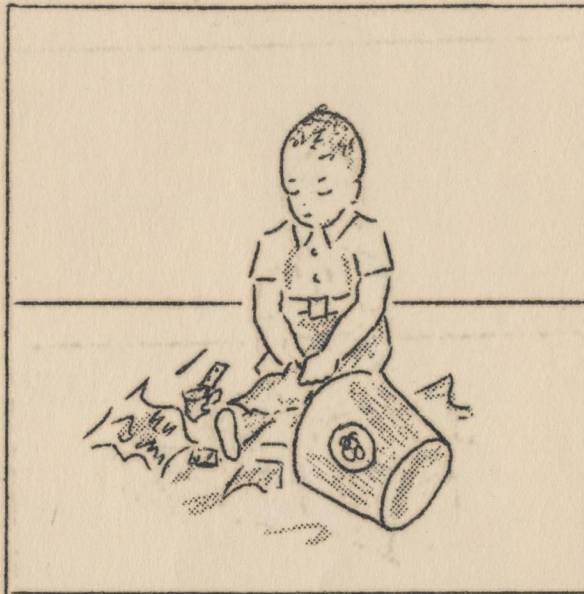
Speaking of shocks - slight shocks from electrical equipment are often received without any serious effects. Under particular circumstances, however, these shocks can be dangerous. It is important to keep these circumstances in mind and to avoid them. Although most of the effect depends upon the strength of the current, the contact is much better when the hands are wet, because water is a good conductor of electricity. Therefore, if one touches a live wire while standing in water, he will get a much greater shock.



As long as the insulation is good there is not much danger of getting a shock, but just to be safe, we should avoid using electrical appliances and touching water at the same time. Special attention

into them.

Knives and other sharp instruments were not meant to be used as toys for children. They are very, very dangerous because the child can be scarred for life or killed instantly by stabbing himself. So by all means never, never allow a child to run with sharp things in his mouth.



The waste paper basket is not a suitable toy for a child. There is likely to be broken glass or old razor blades in the trash that will cut the child's hands. Regardless of the danger of things, children always have an urge to put things in their mouths. So try to dispose of trash and garbage and by all means prevent children from playing around it.

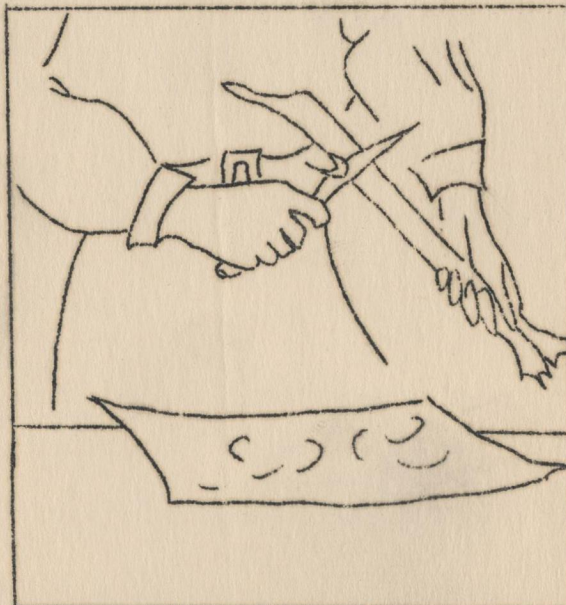
Children cannot judge height. To them, playing on the edge of a high porch or sitting on a window sill has not meaning of danger. It is up to the adults to see that the child is not allowed to play in such places. In fact, such places should be protected by railings or screens.

- - - - -

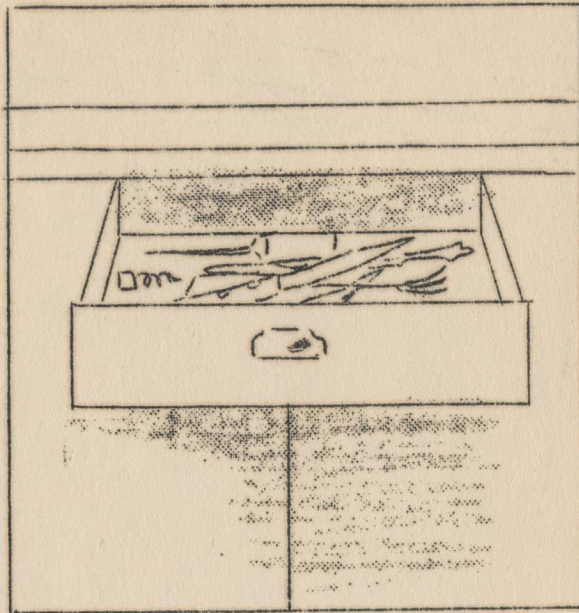
There just seems to be no end to the number and kind of accidents that can happen in our homes and on homemaking projects. Perhaps you think we have mentioned enough to cover everything, but don't these sound familiar: cutting the hand with a sharp knife or bumping into a door?



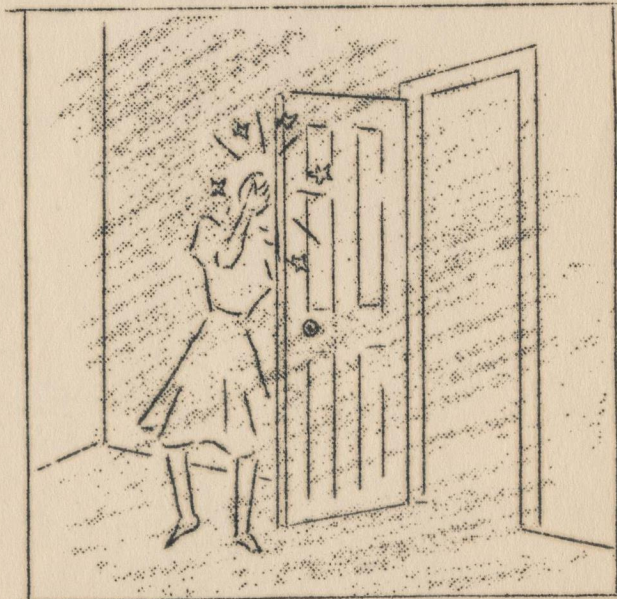
To avoid cutting the hand while washing knives, do not pile them into the dish water all at once. Have the knives in a pile on the table or sink, with the handles turned the same way and all the blades together. Wash one knife at a time, holding the knife by the handle and so that the sharp edge of the blade is turned away from the body. Run the dish cloth along the dull edge.



Cut away from the body when cutting with a knife. The knife is likely to slip and cut a person in the face.

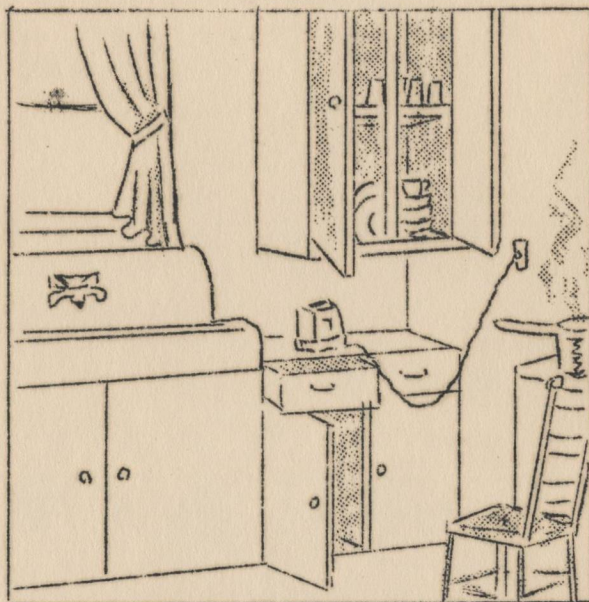


Another caution about knives - don't just throw them into a drawer just any old way, along with forks, measuring spoons, ice picks and everything else. It is better to have partitions in the drawers to separate the knives, forks, etc., into groups. Even though partitions are not used, the silver and other equipment should be separated into groups and placed in the drawer in an orderly manner. This will prevent having a confusion of implements.



One should not try to walk about in the dark. It is true enough that we got to know about where every door and every piece

of furniture is in our homes, but we never know when someone is going to leave a door standing half open or a piece of furniture sitting in the middle of the floor.



In order to avoid causing people to stumble and fall over furniture, we should try to keep everything in order. Try to keep chairs and sewing machines arranged neatly and in an orderly fashion. Don't have chairs in the aisles between the machines and pieces of furniture. All kitchen equipment should be put away and the kitchen left in order after each using. The same is true in the bedrooms and other rooms of the house.

- - - - -

Since sewing is one of our daily activities, let's think of the number of possible accidents that could happen to you while sewing.

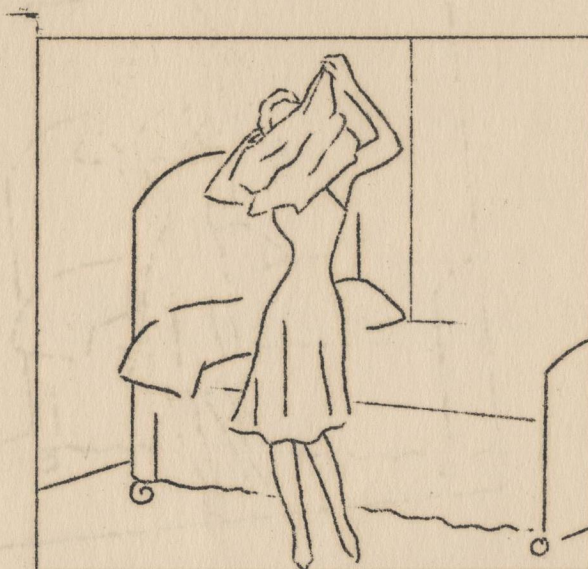
Swallowing pins is one possibility. Some girls insist on using their mouths as pin cushions. Then if they suddenly have to cough, sneeze or talk, they run the risk of getting a pin down their throats.

Have you ever forgotten to move your fingers when cutting? It is very easy to snip the skin or even get a deep cut by using the scissors carelessly.

If you lose your scissors, find them with your eyes and then pick them up. If you start feeling around, you will more than

likely know that you have found them by realizing you have cut yourself with the point or the sharp edge of the blade.

Remember that you don't have to push your material under the needle of the sewing machine. The people who designed and made sewing machines put a special attachment on the machine to carry the material along while it is being stitched. If the material does not move along as it is stitched, the teeth of the feed are more than likely to be dull. Have them sharpened rather than run the risk of sticking a sewing machine needle through your finger.



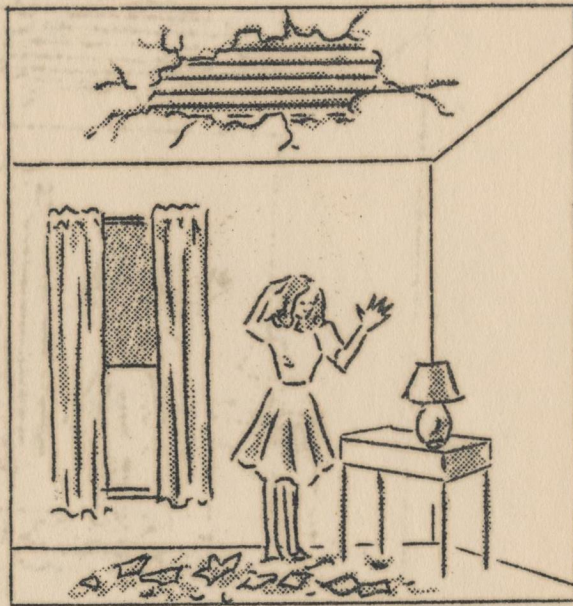
When removing a dress that has been fitted with pins, be very careful. Be sure to keep the eyes closed because there have been cases of a pin scratching the pupil of the eye and causing blindness. Just an ordinary scratch on the skin may cause blood poisoning.

By all means be alert and keep your mind on what you are doing while using a washing machine. The wringers don't stop for your fingers. So, if you get your fingers too close to the rollers they are likely to carry your hand and part of your arm right on through the wringer. In which case, you will have plenty of crushed bones, and will need the assistance of someone to take the machine apart in order to get the hand out.



Remember you are not Sampson! You may be a big, strong and healthy girl, but there is a limit to all things, even to the amount you should lift. It is unnecessary to try to lift things that are entirely too heavy for you to lift. If you want a large piece of furniture or a large tub of water moved, ask someone to help you. I'm sure they will not mind and the asking may save you many aches and pains.





They say that everything that goes up has to come down - at some time or other. If this is true, we can at least see to it that a few of these things come down at a convenient time. If the plastering in a room is cracked and loose, you can stand on a ladder and pick the loose pieces away before they fall on someone's head. If you have the "where-with-all" to repair the cracked plastering, it is well to fill in the cracked places before they become larger. But by all means protect yourselves and others by removing any large pieces that are likely to give way and fall.

- - - - -

SUMMARY

Now that we are more aware of the number and kinds of accidents that occur in our homes, let's try to start a safety campaign to avoid these in our homes and on our NYA projects. Can you think of some resolutions that you could set up to make a good start toward "no more accidents"?

Surely you can name many of them right off hand, but just to be sure you don't forget some of the very important ones, we are going to include a list of resolutions here to serve as a beginning for you. There will be others for you to add according to the kind of equipment you have and the activities on your project.

"In order to have a part in the NYA State-wide Safety Campaign and to strive toward the goal of "no more accidents", I resolve to ":

1. Use a step ladder for reaching and working in high places; not to substitute chairs, barrels and boxes for step ladders.
2. Keep all toys and other articles that might cause one to fall off the floors and stairs.
3. Avoid using small scatter rugs in dangerous places such as at corners and heads of stairs.
4. Repair worn places in the floor and frayed edges of rugs that may cause one to trip and fall.
5. Hold onto some kind of rail or handle while getting in and out of the bath tub or use a non-skid mat in the bottom of the tub to help prevent falls.
6. Hold on to the hand rail when going up and down stairs.
7. Wear good substantial shoes for work and not old, run-over high heeled dress shoes.
8. Be cautious and try to avoid falls on wet or icy steps.
9. Use pot holders for handling hot cooking equipment and not substitute wet rags, dish towels, etc.
10. Be careful when using hot grease for frying.
11. Keep the handles of pots and pans turned over the stove and not projecting outward.
12. Always fasten pillows and bedclothes to the mattress in children's cribs to prevent suffocating.
13. Use gasoline or other inflammable cleaning fluids in the open when dry cleaning and never use them inside the home where there is danger of their coming in contact with fire.
14. Use some kind of easy burning material for kindling and not use kerosene for starting fires.
15. Keep screens in front of open fireplaces.

16. Never allow rubbish, rags and newspapers to accumulate.
17. Put ashes in metal containers and not deposit them in boxes, wooden barrels or baskets.
18. Keep matches and poisons where small children cannot reach them.
19. Use an electric light or flashlight in a closet, but never use a kerosene lamp or a match as a light when looking in a closet.
20. Smoke cigarettes during the day and where there is no danger of starting a fire; the bed is not a place to smoke.
21. Examine the connecting cords on lamps and other electrical appliances; replace those that have the insulation worn off at any place.
22. Remember that long extension cords along the floor and under rugs are hazardous, and to install convenient outlets instead of using makeshift wiring.
23. Disconnect such heating appliances as irons, heaters, curling irons, etc., immediately after using them.
24. Use separate outlets for electrical fixtures and not have too many appliances on one circuit.
25. Have joints, flues and chimneys inspected and cleaned.
26. Never touch electrical fixtures with wet hands.
27. Stay in the room with a small child while he is in the bathtub; never leave him alone.
28. Keep all sharp instruments away from children.
29. Always label poison bottles plainly and keep locked any medicine cabinets which are within reach of children.
30. Be sure all gas outlets are closed when not in use. Examine all jets, pipes and burners for gas leaks.
31. Keep the house in order and well arranged to avoid falls and bumping into objects.
32. Keep knives and other sharp equipment arranged neatly in separate piles to avoid getting stuck or cut when reaching into the pile.

33. Cut away from the body when using a knife, never toward the body or face.
34. Avoid trying to lift objects that are too heavy.
35. Never get the fingers too near the rollers of the wringer on a washing machine.
36. Be extra careful in the use of needles, pins and scissors while sewing and put them away when finished using.
37. Look for lost objects, such as scissors and not feel under cushions, etc., for them.
38. Be sure that plaster and overhead fixtures are fastened securely so they will not come tumbling down on people.

NO 17 '61

JA 5 6 2

DEC 15 '61

MY 1 '70

APR 23 1970

UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE LIBRA



U005 24991 114 3

TX
150
.H43
1940